



June 3, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Promoting More Efficient Use of Spectrum Through Dynamic Use Technologies,
ET Docket No. 10-237

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners Copps, McDowell, and Clyburn:

Under your leadership, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) released a critical Second Memorandum Opinion and Order last September enabling unlicensed devices using novel technologies and techniques to access heretofore unused spectrum in the VHF and UHF TV bands (the so-called, “TV white spaces”). As the Commission noted in the Order, “[a]ccess to unused TV band spectrum could enable more powerful public Internet connections – super Wi-Fi hot spots – with extended range, fewer dead spots, and improved individual speeds.”

At the time of that decision, each of you aptly observed that white spaces access could unleash innovation, investment and economic benefit. Microsoft could not agree more and we are looking forward to working with you to identify further opportunities to make more efficient use of limited spectrum resources to deliver high-bandwidth, ubiquitous wireless broadband access to consumers.

In that spirit, I thought you would be interested to learn that a group of leading technology and communications companies – Arqiva, BBC, BT, BSkyB, Cambridge Consultants, Microsoft, Neul, Nokia, Samsung, Spectrum Bridge and TTP – will soon be launching a large-scale TV band white spaces trial in Cambridge, England. This consortium of hardware, software and content delivery companies has obtained test licenses from OFCOM to demonstrate the use of UHF TV band white spaces to deliver wireless broadband in urban and rural areas.

Similar to research, trials, and demonstrations Microsoft and others have conducted in the U.S., the Cambridge trial will demonstrate how TV white space devices can be used without causing interference to incumbent licensees, such as broadcasters and wireless microphone operators. Utilizing different hardware and databases, the consortium will demonstrate a variety of uses cases in outdoor and indoor urban and rural settings.

We are hopeful that lesson learned from the trial will inform future hardware development and network deployments. We are likewise hopeful that lessons learned from this year-long trial will continue to inform future policymaking, in Europe, the United States, and elsewhere.

On June 29, 2011, the consortium will be hosting an event at Gonville and Caius College in Cambridge, England, to officially launch the demonstration. Invited guests include consortium members, academics, and policymakers. I would be delighted if you would send a member of your staff to attend this event. Later this year, we would likewise be happy to host you and/or members of your staff for a tour of the trial.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you are interested having a member of your staff attend the launch event or if you are interested in further discussing the trial or any other aspect of dynamic spectrum access.

Sincerely,

\s\ Daniel A. Reed

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Corporate Vice President,
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